

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 02028 241706Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 EA-10 HA-05 /078 W
-----041141 241710Z /75

O 241645Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5702

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, NO

SUBJECT: INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF OSLO CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL

REF: (A) STATE 103920, (B) OSLO 2017

1. THE INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA HEARINGS TOOK PLACE IN OSLO FROM APRIL 21-23. WITH THE AMBASSADOR IN ATTENDANCE, DEPUTY FOREIGN MIN THORVALD STOLTENBERG OPENED THE SESSIONS WITH A 20-MINUTE INTRODUCTION THAT CALLED ON ALL PARTICIPANTS TO ASSIST IN THE ILLUMINATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CAMBODIA AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THE HEARINGS WOULD SERVE TO GALVANIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSIST IN FINDING WAYS TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. ANTHONY PAUL, COAUTHOR WITH JOH BARRON OF "CAMBODIA: MURDER OF A GENTLE LAND", LED OFF THE EXPERT TESTIMONY. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY THREE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO TESTIFIED AS TO THEIR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN CAMBODIA SINCE 1975. FRANCOIS PONCHAUD WAS THE LEAD SPEAKER ON APRIL 22 AND WAS AGAIN FOLLOWED BY THE TESTIMONY OF SEVERAL CAMBODIAN REFUGEES. CHARLES MEYER, A FORMER ADVISER TO SIHANOUK, CONCLUDED EXPERT TESTIMONY ON THE 22ND.

2. THE FINAL DAY, APRIL 23, WAS INAUGURATED BY THE MAYOR OF OSLO ALBERT NORDENG, WHO WAS FOLLOWED BY JOHN BARRON AND SEVERAL CAMBODIAN WITNESSES. THE DAY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 02028 241706Z

CONCLUDED WITH A LENGTHY AND RATHER IMPASSIONED PLEA FROM JEAN LACOUTURE FOR THE WORLD NOT TO POLITICIZE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA BUT RATHER TO FOCUS ON THE HUMAN MISERY WHICH WAS TAKING PLACE.

3. THE FIRST DAY AND A HALF WENT FORWARD RATHER PROFESSIONALLY ALTHOUGH WITH A CERTAIN LACK OF EXCITEMENT.

PRESS ATTENDANCE WAS MODERATE AND PRESS TREATMENT WAS SIMILARLY RESTRAINED. PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE TO THE TRIBUNAL CAUSED SOMETHING OF A SENSATION AND SERVED TO STIR UP CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE FOREIGN PRESS SO THAT THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE THIRD DAY WERE MUCH BETTER ATTENDED AND REPORTED ON THAN HAD BEEN THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS.

4. THE ORGANIZERS OF THE TRIBUNAL WHO INCLUDE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT FROM ALL MAJOR PARTIES, A FORMER BISHOP OF OSLO, A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S YOUTH MOVEMENTS (PARTICULARLY THE CONSERVATIVE) WERE LITERALLY OVERWHELMED AT THE SUPPORT THEY RECEIVED FROM THE USG AND PARTICULARLY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. OSLO'S MAJOR DAILY, AFTENPOSTEN, CARRIED AN EDITORIAL APRIL 24 ON THE CAMBODIAN HEARINGS WHICH REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT. AFTENPOSTEN SAID QUOTE IT IS A DUTY FOR EVERYONE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE INJUSTICES IN CAMBODIA. PRESIDENT CARTER PRAISES THE NORWEGIAN SPONSORS OF THE TRIBUNAL. IT IS AN HONOR THEY WELL DESERVE. UNQUOTE (OSLO 2017)

5. AN ATTEMPT BY A GROUP OF RADICAL LEFT YOUTH TO ORGANIZE A COUNTER CAMBODIA HEARING WHICH WOULD QUOTE GIVE AN UNBIASED ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS IN CAMBODIA UNQUOTE WAS SOMETHING OF A FIZZLE. IT WAS NOT TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY BY ANY EXCEPT THE MOST LEFT-WING PRESS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 02028 241706Z

6. THE TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE PLANS TO PUT TOGETHER THE TESTIMONY AND THE DOCUMENTS RECEIVED INTO A VOLUME AND TO SEND THEM AROUND THE WORLD AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. AS SOON AS A OF THE EDITORIALS ARE IN AND PEOPLE HAVE FORMED IMPRESSIONS OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WE WILL FORWARD SEPTEL A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE APRIL 21-23 TRIBUNAL.
LERNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS, ALLEGATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO02028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780174-0979
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780424/aaaaauah.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d8c9c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 103920, 78 OSLO 2017
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2870491
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF OSLO CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL
TAGS: PPDC, SHUM, OCON, NO, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d8c9c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014